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CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A material laminate for use as a covering sheet for absorbent articles such as a sanitary napkin, an incontinence protector or a diaper with a planar extension, a length direction, a width direction and a thickness direction and exhibiting a central axis extending in the length direction and two opposing side edges (9,10) extending in the length direction and
- 10 comprising, in the thickness direction, a first fluid pervious material layer (2) and a second fluid pervious porous material layer wherein at least one of the material layers comprises thermoplastic material and wherein the two material layers are mutually connected by bond sites in the material
- 15 laminate (1) within which bond sites the thermoplastic material has been caused to at least partially soften or melt and thereby bond the two material layers together, and wherein the material laminate (1), in the planar extension, further exhibits two side portions (5,6) extending in the length direction and each extending a distance in the transverse direction from a
- 20 respective side edge (9,10) towards the longitudinal central axis of the material laminate (1) and a central portion (4) positioned between the side portions (5,6) in the planar extension of the material laminate (1) wherein the first material layer (2) and the second material layer (3) in the central portion (4) of the material laminate are intermittently bonded together in a first bond
- 25 pattern (7) and the first material layer (2) and the second material layer (3) in the two side portions (5,6) of the material laminate are intermittently bonded together in a second bond pattern (8), characterized in that the first fluid pervious material layer (2) is a fibrous layer and in that the percentage of bonded area in relation to the total area in the two side portions (5,6) is greater than the percentage of bonded area in relation to the total area of
- 30 the central portion (4).

2 A material laminate in accordance with claim 1,
characterized in that the proportion of bonded area in relation to
the total area in the central portion is at least 0.5% less than the proportion
of bonded area in relation to the total area in the side portions.

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3. A material laminate in accordance with claim 1,
characterized in that the proportion of bonded area in relation to
the total area in the central portion is between 3% and 6% and the
proportion of bonded area in relation to the total area in the side portions is
10 between 5% and 8%.

4. A material laminate in accordance with one of claims 1-3, wherein each
bond site exhibits a smallest extension and a second extension which is
perpendicular to the smallest extension, **characterized in that** at
15 least the smallest extension in the bond sites of the first bond pattern is less
than 0.8 millimetres.

5. A material laminate in accordance with claim 4,
characterized in that the smallest extension in the first bond
20 pattern is 0.3 millimetres or less.

6. A material laminate in accordance with one of claims 1-3,
characterized in that the bond sites comprise spot-bonds.

25 7. A material laminate in accordance with one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the first material layer is a hydrophobic
nonwoven material.

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8. A material laminate in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the second bond pattern is denser than the first bond pattern.

5 9. A material laminate in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the material laminate is in the form of a coherent, continuous web and that the central portion (4) and the side portions (5,6) extend continuously in the length direction of the continuous web.

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10. An absorbent article exhibiting a substantially elongated shape with a planar extension, a length direction, a width direction and a thickness direction and exhibiting a central axis extending in the length direction and two opposing side edges (308,309; 408,409) extending in the length
15 direction and comprising a fluid pervious covering sheet (301; 401), a fluid impervious covering sheet (313; 413) and an absorption body (315; 415) enclosed between the two covering sheets (301,313; 401,413), and wherein the absorbent article, in the planar extension, exhibits two side portions (305,306; 405,406) extending in the length direction and each extending in
20 the transverse direction from a respective side edge (308,309; 408,409) a distance towards the longitudinal central axis of the article and a central portion (304; 404) positioned between the side portions (305,306; 405,406) in the planar extension of the article, **characterized in that** the fluid pervious covering sheet (301; 401) comprises a material laminate (1) in
25 accordance with one of claims 1-9, wherein the material laminate (1), in the central portion of the article exhibits the first bond pattern and the material laminate in the side portions of the absorbent article exhibits the second bond pattern.

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11. An absorbent article in accordance with claim 10, characterized in that the length extension of the side portions (305,306; 405,406) in the width direction of the article is at least 4 millimetres along all of the length of the each side portion.

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